AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a carrier having a pair of one-piece ring-shaped flanges and adapted to rotatably support rotating bodies between the one-piece ring-shaped flanges, comprising the steps of:

forming a material into the shape of a cup having an opening; ~~and~~

closing off the opening of the cup so that a pair of one-piece ring-shaped flanges opposed to each other and designed to rotatably support rotating bodies

between the pair of one-piece ring-shaped flanges and joints connecting the pair of one-piece ring-shaped flanges are integrally formed; and

wherein openings are made in pre-joints of the material before the material is closed off.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein:

the material is selected from a plate material, a rod material and a tubular material.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein:

a bending guide is formed on a border between pre-joints and pre-flanges before the material is closed off.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein:

a groove is formed as the bending guide on a side of the border to which the flanges are opposed.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[11]] 7, wherein:

mandrels are inserted from the openings made in the pre-joints of the material so as to close off the material.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[11]] 7, wherein:

engagement holes for engagement with rotational shafts for rotatably supporting rotating bodies in the carrier are made in pre-flanges before the material is closed off.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[11]] 7, wherein:

mandrels are interposed in positions for mounting rotating bodies between the flanges so that the flanges are swaged towards the mandrels.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[11]] 7, wherein:

openings are made in the joints of the material after the material has been closed off.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[11]] 7, wherein:

the material is selected from a plate material and a tubular material; and

openings are made in the pre-joints of the material before the material is formed into the shape of a cup.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[11]] 7, wherein:

the material is selected from a plate material and a tubular material; and

a bending guide is formed on a border between pre-joints and a pre-flange of the material before the material is formed into the shape of a cup.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein:

a groove is formed as the bending guide on a side of the border to which the flanges are opposed.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[11]] 7, wherein:

a bottom of the material formed into the shape of the cup is turned into a first flange;

peripheral walls adjacent to the bottom are turned into joints; and

an opening-side portion of the cup-shaped material, which is to be closed off, is turned into a second flange.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a carrier having a pair of flanges and adapted to rotatably support rotating bodies between the flanges, comprising the steps of:

preparing a tubular material;

closing off both end openings of the tubular material so that a pair of flanges opposed to each other and designed to rotatably support rotating bodies between the flanges and joints connecting the flanges are integrally formed; and

wherein openings are made in pre-joints of the material before the material is closed off

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

a bending guide is formed on a border between pre-joints and pre-flanges before the material is closed off.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein:

a groove is formed as the bending guide inside the tube on the border.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

mandrels are inserted from the openings made in the pre-joints of the material so as to close off the material.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

engagement holes for engagement with rotational shafts for rotatably supporting rotating bodies in the carrier are made in pre-flanges before the material is closed off.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

mandrels are interposed in positions for mounting rotating bodies between the flanges so that the flanges are swaged towards the mandrels.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

axial centers of a side wall of the tubular material are turned into the joints; and

both axial ends of the side wall of the tubular material, which are to be closed off, are turned into a pair of flanges.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a carrier having a pair of flanges and adapted to rotatably support rotating bodies between the flanges, comprising the steps of:

preparing a tubular material having a tubular wall surface;

bulging a wall surface at the axial center of the tubular material radially outwardly so that a pair of flanges opposed to each other and designed to rotatably support rotating bodies between the flanges and joints connecting the flanges are integrally formed; and wherein

openings are made in pre-joints of the material before the material is closed off.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein:

engagement holes for engagement with rotational shafts for rotatably supporting rotating bodies in the carrier are made in pre-flanges before the material is closed off.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein:

mandrels are interposed in positions for mounting rotating bodies between the flanges so that the flanges are swaged towards the mandrels.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein:

axial centers of the bulged side wall are turned into the joints; and

both axial ends of the side wall of the tubular material, which are to be closed off, are turned into a pair of flanges.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein the joints connecting the one-piece ring-shaped flanges are curved in a circumferential direction of the carrier.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein each of the flanges is a one-piece ring-shaped flange which lies in a plane.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the joints connecting the flanges are curved in a circumferential direction of the carrier.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein each of the flanges is a one-piece ring-shaped flange which lies in a plane.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the joints connecting the flanges are curved in a circumferential direction of the carrier.

38. (New) A method of manufacturing a carrier having a pair of flanges and adapted to rotatably support rotating bodies between the flanges, comprising the steps of:

preparing a tubular material;

closing off both end openings of the tubular material so that a pair of flanges opposed to each other and designed to rotatably support rotating bodies between the flanges and joints connecting the flanges are integrally formed; and

wherein engagement holes for engagement with rotational shafts for rotatably supporting rotating bodies in the carrier are made in pre-flanges before the material is closed off.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein:

a bending guide is formed on a border between pre-joints and pre-flanges before the material is closed off.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein:

a groove is formed as the bending guide inside the tube on the border.

41. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein:

mandrels are inserted from the openings made in the pre-joints of the material so as to close off the material.

42. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein:

mandrels are interposed in positions for mounting rotating bodies between the flanges so that the flanges are swaged towards the mandrels.

43. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein:

axial centers of a side wall of the tubular material are turned into the joints; and

both axial ends of the side wall of the tubular material, which are to be closed off, are turned into a pair of flanges.

44. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein each of the flanges is a one-piece ring-shaped flange which lies in a plane.

45. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the joints connecting the flanges are curved in a circumferential direction of the carrier.

46. (New) A method of manufacturing a carrier having a pair of flanges and adapted to rotatably support rotating bodies between the flanges, comprising the steps of:

preparing a tubular material having a tubular wall surface;

bulging a wall surface at the axial center of the tubular material radially outwardly so that a pair of flanges opposed to each other and designed to rotatably support rotating bodies between the flanges and joints connecting the flanges are integrally formed; and wherein

engagement holes for engagement with rotational shafts for rotatably supporting rotating bodies in the carrier are made in pre-flanges before the material is closed off.

47. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein:

mandrels are interposed in positions for mounting rotating bodies between the flanges so that the flanges are swaged towards the mandrels.

48. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein:

axial centers of the bulged side wall are turned into the joints; and

both axial ends of the side wall of the tubular material, which are to be closed off, are turned into a pair of flanges.

49. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein each of the flanges is a one-piece ring-shaped flange which lies in a plane.

50. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the joints connecting the flanges are curved in a circumferential direction of the carrier.